

Wycombe away to Cheltenham

GRAHAM Mackenzie, the former Wycombe Wanderers mid-field player, will renew acquaintance with his former team mates when he leads out Cheltenham in the first round of the F.A. Trophy on Saturday, January 10.

Mackenzie, known to everybody at Loakes Park as 'Jock', was at the club intermittently between 1973 and 1978 before joining the Southern League club two years ago. He will be pleased that his team has home advantage against the Wanderers.

Cheltenham have been going through something of a lean period of late. At present they stand in lower reaches of the Southern League Midland Division, after a poor start.

Beat holders

Following their failure to gain entry into the Alliance Premier League in its first season, Cheltenham have struggled in the league, although they are renowned cup fighting side.

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Their best result in recent years came in 1978/79 when they knocked holders Altrincham out of the F.A. Trophy with a 2-1 away victory. They did it without their regular 'keeper, who had missed the coach. They reached the third round that year before losing to Enfield.

They did well in the Trophy last year too. So Wycombe should not take them too

lightly. They won away to Walthamstow before going out to Barrow.

Because of their past fine record Cheltenham were, like Wycombe, exempt to the first round. Their only cup experience this season has come in the F. A. Cup, when they won at Oxford City before losing, somewhat unluckily, to Buckingham.

The Robins are managed by Alan Grundy, formerly of Alvechurch, who took over



GRAHAM MACKENZIE
... skipper

from Terry Paine about a year ago. His best known player is the former Birmingham and Motherwell goalkeeper Dave Latchford, brother of the Everton striker Bob, and Celtic goalkeeper Peter.

Another player with Football League experience is defender Alan Ollis, formerly of Luton, while the leading scorer is Paul Tester with five goals.

Away form

The last time the clubs met was in the first round of the F. A. Cup six years ago, when Wanderers won 3-1. But that game was at Loakes Park. Now the Blues must travel and that is something they have not been doing too well of late.

Saturday's 5-0 victory over Bromley, which put Wycombe third in the Berger Isthmian League, came in their 14th home match of the season. As they have only played nine away, it is clear that Wanderers away form will decide whether they can mount a substantial title challenge.

Thus, Wycombe's visit to Walthamstow Avenue tomorrow (Saturday) is a crucial test. Victory could give Wycombe the necessary boost for a good away run. Defeat might lead to a change of tactics.

Avenue must be ripe for the picking. After a fine start to the season, they have fallen away alarmingly, taking just one point from their last 11 matches. They have lost their last seven games.

Their change of fortune followed their 5-0 defeat at Loakes Park in early October. They must be depressingly short of confidence and so provided Wycombe do not make any defensive blunders, they could record their second away win of the season.

Reserves win again

Hounslow Reserves 0, Wycombe Reserves 1

WYCOMBE Reserves continued their run of form on Saturday with victory in the closing minutes of their Suburban League North Division match at Hounslow Reserves.

Hounslow had lost only one previous match, but Wycombe put in a convinc-

ing performance despite taking until the 89th minute before scoring the only goal of the match through Andy Hunt.

WYCOMBE: C. Way, S. Dexter, T. Lee, P. Bycroft, H. Kennedy, M. Richardson, J. Richardson, P. West, A. Hunt, G. Toll, P. Miles, Subs: N. Shrimpton, K. Stansbridge (not used).

BERGER ISTHMAIN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	25	13	8	4	53	29	47
Dagenham	26	11	9	6	51	38	42
Sutton	22	11	7	4	43	29	40
Wycombe	23	11	8	6	41	27	39
Dulwich	24	9	6	8	40	35	36
Bromley	23	10	6	7	40	37	36
Harrow	23	10	5	8	42	28	35
Slough	18	9	7	2	25	15	34
Leytonstone	20	9	4	7	38	31	31
Hayes	21	9	4	8	19	24	31
*Barking	27	9	6	12	38	49	31
Woking	25	9	3	13	30	39	30
Hitchin	19	7	5	7	26	21	26
Tooting	23	7	5	11	24	32	26
Boreham Wd	21	6	7	8	29	38	25
Walthamstow	22	7	3	12	19	35	24
Staines	22	6	5	11	23	32	23
Croydon	20	4	10	6	19	19	22
Harlow	20	5	7	8	25	31	22
Carshalton	19	7	1	11	28	39	22
Leatherh'd	25	4	10	11	17	30	22
Hendon	20	5	5	10	24	31	20

* 2 points deducted.